



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ARREST RELEASE

***** UPDATE *****

ROCKFORD, ILL. – On Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at approximately 12:42 a.m., Rockford Police Officers responded to North Main and Fisher Avenue for a report of an armed carjacking of a taxi driver. The suspect fled from the scene in a marked taxi. While officers were still on scene investigating the carjacking, an officer spotted the stolen taxi near 7th Street and 6th Avenue traveling northbound. The suspect, **later identified as 24-year-old Brian Smart**, fled from the officer in the vehicle and crashed into a utility pole at West Jefferson and North Main Street. Smart backed the vehicle toward officers and into a squad car at which time two officers fired toward Smart. Smart then fled from the scene and a second pursuit occurred which ended in a construction zone in the 1300 block of South Main Street. Smart was taken into custody without further incident. No one was struck by gunfire, however, one officer and the suspect were treated at local hospitals for minor injuries.

Detectives from the Rockford Police Department conducted a follow-up investigation into the incident the results of which were reviewed by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office who authorized the following charges:

ARRESTED: Brian Smart Age 24 Rockford, IL
CHARGES: Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking
Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon
Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon

Smart was lodged in the Winnebago County Jail. A photo of Smart is attached.

All charges are merely allegations and parties are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.





The use of deadly force by the police officers is under review by the Winnebago County State's Attorney's Office. The names of the two officers involved in the shooting are not being released at this time.

This is an on-going investigation and no further information is available for release at this time. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

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